

Montana DNRC
Fire & Aviation Program
Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Advisory Council
July 17, 2013



MONTANA DNRC

FIRE PROGRAM



MISSION STATEMENT

“We protect lives, property and natural resources on state and private lands by providing resources, leadership and coordination to ensure safe and aggressive fire suppression.”



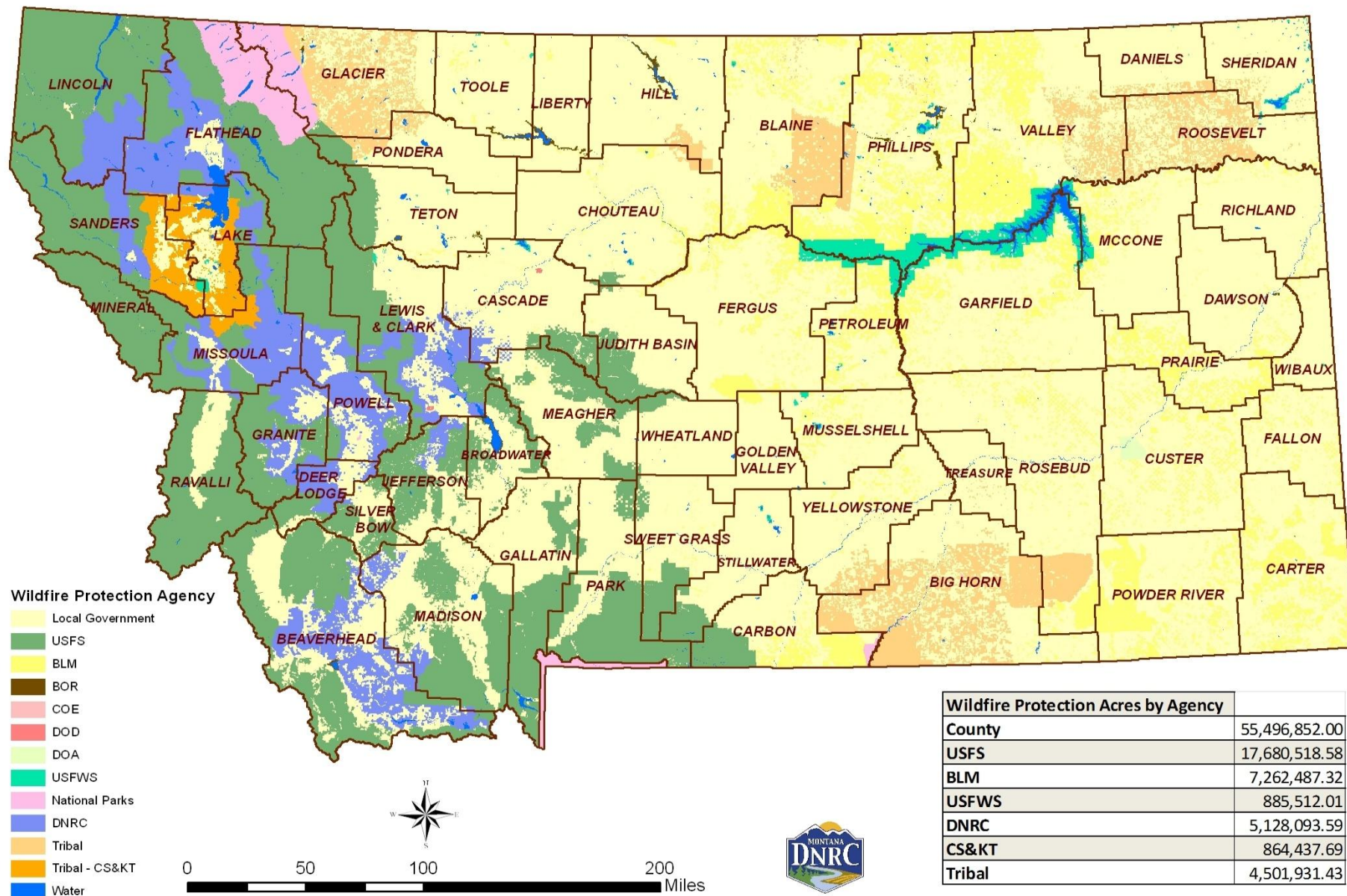
VALUES:

- Firefighter and public safety must always be our highest priority.
- We are fiscally responsible and accountable;
- We operate with consistency and truthfulness;
- We value our people and recognize their contributions to our success, and;
- Our success depend on healthy relationships we foster with our partners, stakeholders, and the public.

SAFETY -- TEAMWORK -- SUCCESS



2013 MONTANA WILDFIRE PROTECTION



Interagency Effort

- Federal: USFS, BLM, BIA, NPS, & USFWS
 - State: DES, National Guard, FW&P, DOT, MHP
 - Local: Counties, VFDs, Sheriffs, DES
-
- Northern Rockies Coordinating Group
 - Interagency Dispatch Centers
 - Incident Management Teams
 - Northwest Compact: AK, WA, OR, ID, MT, NW, YK, BC, ALBT, SASK.



Montana DNRC Fire & Aviation Management

Wildfire Trends in Montana:

- Longer fire seasons.
- More severe fire conditions.
- Larger fires.
- Higher fire costs.



Montana DNRC Fire & Aviation Management

- **Operational considerations:**
 - **Burnout tactics:**
 - Common tactic in lighter fuels
 - Effective at common fire breaks: roads, trails, ridgelines, etc.
 - “Lose a little to save a lot”
 - **Fire suppression rehabilitation:**
 - Repair damages only
 - Control erosion
 - Weed management
 - Property owner responsible for any repair of fire damages.



Montana DNRC Fire & Aviation Management

- **Challenges:**
 - Initial Attack done by VFDs
 - Recent increased investments (engines & training)
 - Staffing limits
 - Mixed ownership



Questions?

